

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 00698 171131 Z

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5780

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 00698

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR FI KN KS

SUBJECT: RECOGNITION OF THE KOREAS

REF: HELSINKI 427

BEGIN SUMMARY. NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTRY MEETING IN OSLO, AT END OF MARCH, WILL ANNOUNCE SIMULTANEOUS RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA BY NORDIC COUNTRIES, ACCORDING TO FINNISH FONMIN SOURCE. FINNS WILL UNILATERALLY RECOGNIZE BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA. IF SWEDES MOVE EARLIER, FINNS WILL ACT IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING TO RECOGNIZE BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA IN CONCERT WITH THE RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA BY THE OTHER NORDIC COUNTRIES AT OR ABOUT THE CONCLUSION OF THE NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN OSLO ON MARCH 29-30. A FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE HAS INFORMED AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT THE FINNS HOPE THAT NO OTHER NORDIC COUNTRY WILL RECOGNIZE NORTH KOREA BEFORE THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING. THE MINISTRY EXPECTS THAT THE RECOGNITION QUESTION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HELSIN 00698 171131 Z

WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING, AND THAT THE COMMUNIQUE EMANATING FROM THE MEETING WILL CONTAIN THE OFFICIAL STATEMENTS OF RECOGNITION. FOR THE FINNS' PART, SOME SPECIAL VERBIAGE WILL BE REQUIRED SINCE FINLAND AT PRESENT RECOGNIZES NEITHER KOREA. SOURCE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT HAS NOT SUCCUMBED TO TEMPTATION TO RECOGNIZE ONLY NORTH KOREA.

2. ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE, THE FINNS ARE PREPARED IN CASE SWEDEN JUMPS THE GUN, WHICH THE FINNS HOPE WILL NOT BE THE CASE. THE SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS AGREED THAT THE RECOGNITION ANNOUNCEMENT SHOULD BE SIMULTANEOUS, BUT THE FINNS ARE NOT CERTAIN THE SWEDES CAN HOLD THE LINE. THERE IS A REAL POSSIBILITY THAT THE SWEDES WILL ACT INDEPENDENTLY OF THE OTHER NORDIC COUNTRIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE MARCH 21 FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE IN THE SWEDISH PARLIAMENT. IN SUCH CASE, THE FINNS WILL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW SUIT BY ANNOUNCING THAT THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT HAS REACHED A " DECISION IN PRINCIPLE" TO RECOGNIZE BOTH KOREAS.

3. THE MINISTRY SOURCE REPORTS THAT ALL OF THE NORDIC COUNTRIES ARE AWARE THAT SOUTH KOREA MIGHT ENVISION SANCTIONS OF SOME SORT, BUT HAVE CONCLUDED THAT ANY RETALIATORY ACTION, IF TAKEN, WOULD BE NEITHER IMPORTANT NOR EFFECTIVE.

4. EMBASSY OFFICER REITERATED US POSITION ON RECOGNITION QUESTION AND URGED RECONSIDERATION. FINNS' MIND, HOWEVER, IS MADE UP.

5. A NORTH KOREAN TRADE DELEGATION ARRIVED IN FINLAND YESTERDAY, HEADED BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, KYE UNG- T' AE. THE GROUP WILL SPEND FIVE DAYS IN FINLAND ROUNDING OUT A TOUR OF SCANDINAVIAN CAPITALS. THE FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE HAD EARLIER THOUGHT THE VISIT WOULD GENERATE PRESSURES FROM THE LEFT- WING IN FINLAND FOR IMMEDIATE RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA. PUBLICITY SO FAR HAS BEEN MINIMAL. IN A PRESS INTERVIEW BY FOREIGN MINISTER KARJALAINEN, PUBLISHED YESTERDAY, HE GAVE A HINT OF THE COORDINATED NORDIC ACTION ON RECOGNITION OF THE KOREAS. HE SAID THAT " IF, TOGETHER WITH THE OTHER NORDIC COUNTRIES, WE REACH AGREEMENT ON A SIMULTANEOUS RECOGNITION, WE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HELSIN 00698 171131 Z

WILL COOPERATE WILLINGLY WITH THEM."

PETERSON

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